

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action dated September 17, 2004, has been carefully reviewed in light of the Examiner's helpful comments and suggestions.

As a result of the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kageyama in view of Refsdal and Kahn. However, claims 2-8 are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, for which, as a preliminary matter, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for an early indication of allowable subject matter.

By the above amendments, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2, and claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, claim 1 is now believed to be allowable, and claims 3-8 are dependent from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Each issue raised in the Office Action dated September 17, 2004, has been addressed and it is believed that claims 1 and 3-8 are in condition for allowance. Wherefore, reconsideration and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,  
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